

**ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
MAY 11, 2010
TOWN OF COLUMBIA**

The Annual Budget Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meeting of the Town of Columbia, Connecticut, was held in Horace W. Porter Cafetorium on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 7:30pm.

Present were Carmen Vance, First Selectmen, Richard J. Szegda, William O'Brien, Rob Hellstrom, Rebecca Stearns, Selectmen, Henry Beck, Town Attorney, Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator, Nelson Petrone Chairman, Lisa Jurovaty, Lauren Perrotti-Verboven, James Thorn, John Schroder, Paula Belekewicz and William Mulcahy and Francine Coss, Superintendent.

Presenting the budget for Financial Planning & Allocation Commission was Ernest Sharpe, Chairman, Joanne Gyure, Cindy Harrison, Judith Ortiz, Scott Petrequin, Michael Robertson and Allen Smith.

CITIZENS: 155 Present
CLERK: Robin M. Kenefick
MODERATOR: Stephen Arntsen

The meeting was called to order by 1st Selectman, Carmen Vance at 7:33 p.m. and then turned the meeting over to the Moderator who explained the process and procedure and then read the legal.

CLAUSE 1: Motion was made by Carmen Vance, First Selectman.

I MOVE that the Town accept the proposed budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011; and appropriate the sums estimated and set forth in the supporting documents.

Motion was second. The floor was opened for discussion Carmen Vance spoke first. She hoped that everyone here attended the budget hearing on April 21. Both Mr. Luiz and Superintendent Coss gave a very detailed explanations of the two components of the budget. Board of Education and Board of Selectmen worked very hard to keep budget increases to a minimum. To have NO tax increase, we would have had to cut an additional \$295,842 in spending. Doing so would have meant cutting services and more staff. This budget is a .5 increase. It was kept to an absolute minimum.

Nelson Petrone, Chairman of Board of Education thanked the teacher's union and explained how hard the Board of Education worked on the budget reductions. They had many tough decisions with the economy. Mr. Petrone asked the audience to support the budget. Several citizens spoke regarding how the budget is affected by the current economy and how they were against any increases. Others felt they had to support the budget even with the increase.

Vera Englert questioned if the vote would be on paper ballot? The Moderator explained that the Annual Budget meeting vote is by paper ballot per Charter.

Vera Englert: I Move to check ID's to vote.
 Motion was second. Discussion took place. Bob Baldwin "Call the Question (need 2/3 vote to pass). Voted to Call the Question YES unanimous, NO- 0
 Vote to check ID's YES- 5, NO Room. Motion fails.

The Moderator read the original Motion to vote on the budget by paper ballot.

Vote YES 121; NO 55 Motion passes.

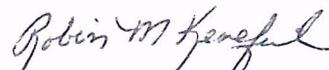
CLAUSE 2: Motion made by Carmen Vance, First Selectman.

I MOVE that the tax rate for the 2010-2011 Fiscal year be set at 23.55 mills payable July 1st and January 1st as specified in Section 9.10 of the Columbia Town Charter.
 Motion was second. No discussion took place.

Voice Vote: YES – Majority; NO – 4. Motion passes.

The Moderator adjourned meeting at 8:43p.m.

Respectfully submitted;


 Robin M. Kenefick,
 Town Clerk